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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

BEVILACQUA et al

Atty. Ref.: 2590-30

Serial No. Unknown

Group:

National Phase of: PCT/CH99/00476

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Filed: April 5, 2001

Examiner:

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MEASURING
LOCALLY AND SUPERFICIALLY THE SCATTERING
AND ABSORPTION PROPERTIES OF TURBID MEDIA

* * * * *

April 5, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, after the title, please insert --This application is a 371 of PCT/CH99/00476.--

IN THE CLAIMS (AS AMENDED)

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

1. (Amended) A method for local and superficial characterization of a turbid medium using the following parameters:

- 1) the refractive index n of the turbid medium
- 2) the absorption coefficient μ_a of the turbid medium
- 3) the reduced scattering coefficient μ_s' of the turbid medium

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